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DRAMAtical Murder re:code - Morphine Route; Part 2 Translation

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The place where I woke up is, like I've expected, in Platinum Jail. Specifically, I'm now inside Oval Tower.

Even though I know Morphine's existence is a huge suspicion of its own, I never thought that it's connected with Toue.

But even so, I wasn't shocked to find out about this either.

This island is controlled by Toue after all, I guess most of the suspicious elements in this place are all connected to Toue then. I can't think of any other explanation that's better than this.

Oval Tower. When I was in the Old Resident District, I thought admiring this building was stupid, that there's no way I'll ever set foot in here.

I follow Mizuki to look around the tower.

The room I was in is located on the third floor, underground. It seems like the third and second floors of the underground section in this building are used as residential areas for the staff here.

Morphine's members... Technically they are also for Dry Juice's members.

When Mizuki used the word 'residential space', I imagine it to be something like the personal room I woke up in. The staffs seem to be staying in a similar room, but it's different for the Morphine's members.

Mizuki brings me to a room as big as a banquet hall. There are a lot of people inside, all look like living corpses, merely hanging around in the space.

This is not a place one would refer to as a 'residential space'. There are no casual talks or laughter. There's nothing in there that one could call it as an entertainment source as well.

There's nothing but a sea of people in black parkers; some leaning against the wall, some lying on the floor.

Some are talking to themselves, some are just standing around...

There's nothing metal in the space but there's a sort of floatiness in this place that makes it feel weird.

Aoba: □Is everyone here Morphine members as well?□

Mizuki: □Yeah. To be exact, these are people the Morphine members brought back from the Old Resident District. There's a similar room next door, but our members

are all over here.□

Aoba: □Heh...□

So this is the real form of Spirited Away.

People who are being abducted by Morphine are crushed in the heart like this, becoming a puppet who only listens to orders.

If one doesn't have willpower as strong as Mizuki, I guess it's hard for them to remain their own consciousness like how Mizuki does right now.

But no matter how strong one's willpower is, there'll always be a chance for downfall.

I bet everyone else sees Mizuki as a prey as well.

I've observed Mizuki the entire time when we were on our way here. Even though he's speaking normally like how he usually does, it's obvious that Mizuki is now way different from how he once was.

It's even more apparent when he speaks about the Dry Juice members in this room.

Aoba: □So how do you settle food supply here?□

Mizuki: □Twice a day, just simply food enough to replenish nutrient along with water. But we don't treat our members too harshly as well, you know?□

Mizuki: □As long as there isn't any unreasonable request, it's not hard to fulfill everyone's needs. In other words, none of them has any complaints about how they're being treated here.□

Mizuki: □Anyway, there guys won't be able to tell if they're eating nice food or if they're staying in a nice room after all. There won't be any dissatisfaction in the first place then.□

Mizuki: □Also, they'll just stay here unless being instructed. It's easy job.□

Mizuki lets out a smirk at the end of his words.

Aoba: □How about you?□

Mizuki: □Huh?□

Aoba: □Do you always stay here too?□

Mizuki: □Nope. I have my own personal room. It's just beside the room you were sleeping in just now.□

Aoba: □Oh.□

Mizuki: □Morphine members who are acknowledged don't belong here.□

Mizuki: □They are being tested when they first joined Morphine: if they belong here, or if they could think better than the others.□

Aoba: □Test? What do you do with that?□

Mizuki: □I cannot remember.□

Aoba: □Huh?□

Mizuki: □Our memories are erased after the test. We are only told that we had gone through a test for this.□

Aoba: □Hmm.□

The test he mentioned... Well, I guess it's those type of test that messes up your head and checks if you are still sane after that.

Losing interest with the big space, I stop looking around.

I switch my attention to the Coil on my wrist – It's 10PM. Is it because of the fact

that I've once consciousness? I feel as if time is moving faster than usual. It still feels like 7PM or 8PM.

Mizuki: "You have your own room as well. That room where you woke up in."

...Ah, that room with nothing in it. That's my room, huh.

Aoba: "To give me a room all of a sudden like that, so you're trying to say that I'm capable after all?"

Mizuki: "Yeah."

Mizuki tilts his head slightly, then gives out a confident smile.

Mizuki: "As my arms."

Aoba: "Hah."

I let out an instinctive laugh. I can't help it listening to Mizuki's over-the-roof speech. He shrugs as he looks at me.

Mizuki: "What is it? Unsatisfied?"

Aoba: "It's not that. I wouldn't mind even if I have to sleep here, that's what I thought."

Mizuki: "That only means someone has hopes for you."

Mizuki stops speaking then, merely looking right into my eyes.

Mizuki: "By Toue."

Aoba: "..."

Aoba: "Hopes, huh."

Toue.

I don't know what Toue's true intention is, but I can roughly guess by the look of how Morphine members are being manipulated.

Oh well, I'll ask the details from him directly then.

Aoba: "Hey."

Mizuki: "Huh?"

Aoba: "I want that as well."

I reach out a hand, then lightly grabbing on the sleeve on Mizuki's parker, who's looking at me with confusion written all over his face.

Mizuki: "You mean this parker?"

Aoba: "Yeah, this is Morphine's uniform, right? Everyone is wearing it."

Mizuki: "Ah, well... It's not like it a uniform, they don't have their own conscious to decide things for themselves after all."

Mizuki: "If they don't wear the same thing, we won't be able to tell who's a member and who's not."

Mizuki: "Anyway, it's not me who had decided on this anyway. It's been like this

since I joined Morphine.

Aoba: "Hm... Then? Where's mine? Will I be getting one too?"

Mizuki: "Of course. I'll give you yours later."

It's not like I want it because I think that it's cool to wear this so-called Morphine uniform. It's just something like a casual thought?

Mizuki: "I'll bring you to other places. Follow me."

Mizuki slings an arm around my back again, urging me to move on.

Aoba: "Yeah."

We leave the big Morphine space, then return to the corridor.

The places that we can go in, places that we can't, and the exit that connects to the outside roads.

Based on what Mizuki has explained to me, we... that means the place where Morphine members are allowed to move freely is the whole of the underground as well as the upper first floor. Above that, we would not be able to access without permission.

After a quick stroll, I bid my farewell to Mizuki, then start to walk around the tower by myself.

There's no reason to this. If I am to say one, it doesn't matter where I can or cannot access. I just want to walk around to my liking.

It's like a treasure hunt. It excites me.

Anyhow, I'll try to find the elevator that will bring me upstairs.

I don't have a solid concept of how the floors here work, I just walk based on my instinct, along the corridors.

Sometimes I pass by staffs who shoot me suspicious stares but I just ignore them and keep walking.

While I walk along the boring corridors, I'm reminded of what Mizuki told me just now.

I can always ask Mizuki if there's anything I don't understand.

First, about Ren.

It seems that I've left him aside when I scrapped Mizuki. He's now in my bag.

The bag is retrieved by Morphine members after that... Oh well, it's not like I need it now, it doesn't matter if I have or don't have it with me anyway.

Next, I also asked about Granny.

Granny is taken to the upper level of the tower, but Mizuki doesn't know exactly where she's taken to.

It seems like there are a lot of research labs on the upper levels, I guess she's brought there then.

But why is Morphine targeting Granny anyway?

Morphine members act like a team of soldiers for Toue, so that means Toue was the one who's targeting Granny.

Why?

... I continue walking down the corridor with my thoughts filled with countless questions, then, I spot the elevator.
There's a security guard standing beside it; he stares as I walk towards him.

Guard: "Stop."

Even if he says so, I don't intend to obey anyway. Noticing that I'm ignoring him, the security guard steps towards me, as if attempting to threaten me.

Guard: "I said stop. Do you have permission?"

Aoba: "Permission? I don't know anything about that."

Guard: "If you don't have a permission, you are not allowed to head upstairs."

Aoba: "I said I don't know, didn't you hear?"

Guard: "You...!"

Seeing how much I didn't care about whatever he said, the security guard raises the bat that's on his belt.

Aoba: "Heh, that's dangerous. What are you trying to do?"

I avoid the attack, laughing at the security guard as I step back. He's obviously enraged.

Guard: "How dare you act in such a disrespectful way even though you are nothing more than just a puppet?"

Aoba: "Aren't you also Toue's puppet? I see no difference at all."

Guard: "What did you say?!"

The enraged security guard lurches forward, grabbing me on the shoulders.

Aoba: "Ugh."

I stare at him in an upfront way, catching his gaze, then slowly opens my mouth.
I will use... my power.

Aoba: "Go away."

Guard: "...!"

Aoba: "...ugh."

But, the moment I used my power a sharp headache hit me right into my head.
The security guard looks perplexed for a few moments, his actions stopped, his hand holds high.

Guard: "Ugh... You little!"

...Ah, it's not working.
I'm still not completely myself yet.
A fist flies to my face.
It will definitely hit me.

If it hits me, I'll bleed.
Blood, red blood.
If that thought, I close my eyes... in the next moment.

Guard: □Uwa!□

A weird sound later and the security guard tumbles backwards, falling just like that.
A can rolls by his side.

Trip: □Good control, me. Easy job~□

I hear footsteps from behind me. As I turn around, I see two men with similar clothing walking towards my direction.
Both of them stop in front of me, and as if they are trying to confirm something, they do nothing but continue staring at my face.
I quietly stare back at them too.
I know these two persons.
More like... I've spent way longer time with them than □Reason□did.

Aoba: □Virus and, Trip.□

When I call their names, they let out a smile.

Trip: □Yaho, Aoba.□

Virus: □Aoba-san, good evening. I never thought I'd meet you here.□

Virus: □Come to speak about it, why are you here, by the way?□

Aoba: □Why, you ask? It's obvious, isn't it? I'm taking a walk.□

Virus: □Taking a walk...□

Virus repeats my words in a whisper, then both Virus and Trip exchange stares.
They seem quiet surprised to see me here.

Aoba: □Anyway, why are you here? Aren't you yakuza monitoring the activities in the Old Resident District?□

Hearing my question, they both smile again.

Virus: □Sorry. I think we've confirmed that you're indeed Aoba-san. We took some time to decide how to talk to you.□

Aoba: □Huh? What is that?□

Virus: □Nothing, please don't mind me. It's our own consideration.□

Aoba: □Hmmm? So, why are both of you here then?□

Virus: □That's because... we belong here from the beginning after all.□

Aoba: □...you belong here?□

Trip: □That's right, it means that our employee is actually Toue.□

Virus: □That's the case. We're responsible of looking over the Old Resident District, if you are to put it that way.□

Aoba: □That means you have been Toue's dogs all this while?□

Virus: □We aren't dogs.□

Aoba: □But you have been reporting to Toue about everything that has been happening in the Old Resident District, no?□

I purposely trigger them, but they don't seem to be losing their composure either.

Trip: □That's a bit of a different case.□

Virus: □There are a lot of cases for us.□

...what a boring response.

They have always been like that.

That was why I thought they'd give me a different response if I am to mention their employee.

Aoba: □Well, I don't really care anyway.□

Virus: □What's the matter?□

Aoba: □Nothing.□

Virus: □..Well, let's do this again. Welcome back... Sly Blue. □

Aoba: □...□

It seems that Virus has been purposefully using formal language the entire time.

Without answering, I keep quiet, keeping my eyes on them at the same time.

They just keep smiling, returning my gaze.

slyblue.

That name triggers a nostalgic memory out of me.

...I was once being referred to as that time after all.

Virus: □By the way, Aoba-san. Would like to ask you once again... Why are you here? □

Aoba: □What do you mean?□

Virus: □No, you would never come here if it was you from before. □

Aoba: □I failed the scrap on Mizuki. Well, if I failed then I might as well join Morphine.□

Virus & Trip: □...□

Virus: □...Have you remembered everything from the past?□

Aoba: □Ah, the ones you have erased? The one where I used Rhyme and turned my opponent into a piece of useless junk?□

Trip: □...Heh.□

Virus: □...I see.□

Both of them seem satisfied with the answer.

Virus: □I guess then we need another welcome note as well, right?... Welcome to Morphine, Aoba-san.□

Aoba: □What's that? It sounds like you're also part of Morphine.□

While I laugh, Virus nods his head.

Virus: □Yeah, you're right.□

These guys are in Morphine? It's not possible. This must be a lie.
I cannot imagine seeing them moving around in those black parkers.
Probably this is what they mean by being on Toue's side from the very beginning.
I don't intend to think too much about this so I just go with the flow.

Aoba: "...Well, that's unfortunate then."

Trip: "What is?"

Aoba: "The whole intention for you to erase my memory is so Toue wouldn't find me, right? That means your effort has just gone down the drain."

Virus: "Yeah. But that's a different case. If it's Aoba-san yourself who has decided to jump into this situation then there's nothing we can do to stop you. We don't intend to stop you by force anyway."

Trip: "Yeah, yeah. Anyhow now that Aoba is on board, it seems like things would be more interesting from now on."

Virus: "That's the case."

Aoba: "Hmm..."

I tilt my chin, staring deeply into both of their eyes.

The Morphine case aside, no matter how I hear them, they don't seem to be taking things very seriously themselves.

But, even if they are to lie, it's nothing to do with me anyway.

This conversation sounds too much like a surface formality and there's no meaning to it.

Aoba: "I don't know if it's going to be interesting or not but, well, I'll try it out then."

Virus: "...haha. I've heard that tone before from a long time back. It does sound like Aoba-san."

Trip: "Right."

Aoba: "Come and play with me again, okay? Just like how you used to the last time."

With that said, Virus narrows his eyes from beneath his glasses.

Virus: "Even if you say so, Aoba-san wouldn't want to be involved with any play that's too extreme, right?"

Trip: "Aoba always draws a line, after all. No matter who your opponent is."

Aoba: "I don't like when the play is half-assed. Go big or go home."

Aoba: "To destroy, or not to destroy; it's as simple as that. You weren't trying to destroy me at all, weren't you?"

Virus: "What Aoba-san is looking for is a destruction beyond both your heart and your body... In other words, you're looking to disappear, isn't it?"

Virus: "We don't want Aoba-san to disappear so we can't do that."

Trip: "That's right, we're Aoba's fans after all."

Virus: "...Anyhow, if it was you in the past, you won't be seeking for destruction."

Aoba: "...Did you say something?"

Trip: "Nothing."

Aoba: "..."

I noticed how Virus was whispering to himself but I'm already tired of this conversation.

Aoba: "...Where are you guys heading to? Your rooms?"

Virus: "Yeah."

Trip: "We just came back from patrolling around the Old Resident District.... Oh yeah, Aoba. I'll tell you something interesting then."

Trip: "The guys who helped you to save your grandma, they're here too, you know?"

Aoba: "The guys that were with me...? You mean Koujaku and the others?"

Trip: "Yeah. They were captured after that. They looked strong, we thought they'd escape but it seems like they weren't going to after all."

Trip: "I guess they were pretty shocked with your actions."

Virus: "Well, even if anything is to happen, we already have support on the way. They'll be recaptured in no time."

Virus: "No matter how strong a person could be, if you give them a sort of calmer, then they won't be able to fight you much anymore, right?"

Aoba: "You mean to say that they're somewhere in this tower too?"

Virus: "Yeah, they're still alive. But we wouldn't know what would happen to them in the future."

Virus: "It's related to Toue anyway, probably they'll be used as experiments?"

Virus: "There weren't any similar samples like them anyway. And they seem to be possessing very strong willpower as well, they'll definitely become precious samples for Toue's experiments."

Aoba: "...heh."

To be honest, I'm quite surprised to know that they have been captured. I thought they'd escape under that circumstance.

But, when I thought about the last expressions I saw on their faces, then it makes sense to why they're being caught now.

It's just like what Virus said... They must be in shock to see how I acted.

If that's so, it's funny.

Virus: "Don't you want to meet them?"

Aoba: "If I feel like it then."

Virus: "Well then, if you ever feel like it, just let us know. We'll bring you there."

Aoba: "I might never feel like it, though."

Trip: "Haha. You're really like Aoba."

Virus: "Well then. I guess we should return to our rooms now. What about you, Aoba-san?"

Aoba: "I will continue walking around then."

Trip: "Walking around? Aa, looking around the tower?"

Aoba: "Yeah. I just arrived after all."

Trip: "Then I'll give you this."

Trip then hands me a piece of card.

Aoba: "What is this?"

Trip: "If you use that, you'll be able to use the elevator and access the upper levels. But there are places where you won't be able to enter, though."

Aoba: "If you give me this, then you won't be able to access to places then, no?"

Virus: "I have one too, so don't worry. Anyway, we usually don't need passes to access to places. Our faces are the best passes."

Aoba: "Heh.. And here I thought you are just another yakuza from the Old Resident District."

Virus: "This is how it works here."

Virus gives out a playful smile.

Virus: "Now then, Aoba-san. We'll see you soon. Let's talk when we have more time."

Virus: "Aa but, if your body condition isn't too well, remember not to force yourself too much."

Aoba: "Body condition?"

Virus: "You staggered a bit when you were fighting with the security guard, right?"

...This men... Exactly how much have they seen?

Virus: "Well then."

Trip: "See you again, Aoba. Bye bye."

Waving a hand at me, they returned to where they came from.

When I first met them... The Aoba who was once "Reason" presented signs of instability, that was why I, "Desire", took over the surface.

The Aoba then, and the Aoba that was recently "Reason", they know the both of them.

But their attitude never changed. They should have realized how drastically Aoba's attitude has changed by now.

But still, they are still treating me like how they always do. That light smile, the way they blindly admire me.

I wonder what motive they have in mind, they always look like they're thinking of something... Something that I don't know.

But, from what I've managed to gather from the way they speak, I know that they have been seeing me differently from how they look at others. Probably they're just interested in me.

Why and how do they know that I'm far from normal...

Did they feel it from their hunches, or are they people who know more things that I thought they know?

In this state of not knowing anything at all, I think it's best for me to be alert towards whatever that's happening around me. They are very wary, they aren't people I can handle so easily.

They are not extremely attached to me as well, I just deem them as being very annoying. It's like they can see through me right away.

That's where I get really irritated. Of course I'd suspect them.

But they didn't do anything out of the ordinary either. They only mention that it's all because they're my fans and that's it.

And just like that, the same situation stretches and across time, I just kinda ignore it.

If they get too annoying I'll just brush them off anyway; and they aren't in a proximity that would harm me anyway

Oh well, using their face as a pass or whatever, there are still a lot of suspicions about them.

While I lose sight of them, I start to walk around again, and then, I'm reminded of the security guard who has been knocked out.

Perhaps he'd received a critical hit from Trip, he just lies there, without moving.

I kick him so that he's facing upwards. His chest moves up and down gradually.

Looks like he's still alive.

I pass by the security guard, then stand in front of the elevator. There's a panel on the wall with blinking red spot.

Just to try, I press Trip's card against the panel.

The red spot turns green, then the door in front of me slowly opens.

I get into the escalator, looking up at the panel displaying the floor numbers.

There are a few numbers arranged neatly along the panel. When the numbers reach a higher floor, their colours change. Those are a different type of floors, huh?

I don't have any target in mind, so I simply press the topmost floor number.

The elevator moves upwards slowly, the numbers above my head increase.

When it approaches the number I've just pressed, the elevator slows down its speed, then comes to a stop.

I walk out of the opened door, towards the floor.

Aoba: □...□

I look around the floor. Oh, I see.

This is one of the floors with a different colour in the elevator. It's true that the floor seems different, the atmosphere on this floor feels different.

It feels so cold and unemotional here.

It doesn't seem like a floor that staff can enter or use either.

It almost seems like it's a forbidden place to set foot into... The metal around contributes only to the chilliness of the air around.

There's only one long road in front of me. When I pass by the rows of doors, I instinctively rub against the doorknobs.

Anyway, this floor doesn't seem like it'll welcome any guests anyway.

Aoba: □Can I pass with this?□

Virus had said that "there are some places that you can't access" just now, even with the card.

Oh well, if I can't pass then I'll just retreat.

I walk towards the door. Similar to the elevator, there's a panel right beside the door.

Aoba: □It works.□

While the door opens in front of me, I lost my track slightly. Wow, this card is really amazing.

...that aside, Virus and Trip, don't tell me they are actually big names in this tower?

As I thought, there's only one straight road beneath the door. While I walk, I brush through the doorknobs I pass by again.

There are doors at both sides along the corridor, all of them with small monitors beside them. The monitors show the names of the persons using the room.

I guess it's impossible to go into any rooms just like that. Abandoning the thought to search for the 'right' room, I simply walk along the corridor.

As I stand in front of the next door, I use the card against the panel beside the door again as I walk into it.

There are more corridors beneath the door, then, at the end of it, an elevator stands.

I thought I've reached the topmost level from the elevator I came with just now, are there more floors above? It doesn't seem like it's leading to a floor where staffs are permitted either.

I wonder if I can use Trip's card on this elevator too.

Approaching the elevator, I try pressing the card against the panel and watch it open with amazement.

Where should I go this time? Anyway, let's just go in first.

Without much consideration, I step into the elevator again.

As I'm about to press on the button, my hand stops.

There's only one button.

That means this elevator only leads to one place.

Aoba: □...So this is the real topmost floor then?□

I smell something interesting ahead. Without hesitation, I press the button.

The door closes, the elevator moves upwards slowly.

...The card Trip has given me is really amazing.

I thought it wouldn't be able to lead me to the top floor.

To be able to give someone else - rather, me - a powerful card like that, the owner is really amazing as well.

If I am to cause any troubles, he'll be the one to blame, no?

Oh well, even if that happens, I bet they can escape easily anyway.

To possess such a powerful card, I cannot imagine anyone to be able to put blames on them too much anyway.

Even if it happens, they would've predicted it anyhow.

That's why they didn't hesitate when they handed me the card.

While I try to make sense of things around for myself, the elevator stops, the door slowly opens.

Aoba: □...□

There's only one corridor in front of me and a red door at the end of it. It doesn't need too much observation to tell that this floor is indeed different from the others. But this floor also possesses something that's not quite similar to whatever I've seen in the other floors.

In front of the red door... There's someone sitting there.

I stop my tracks, fixing my gaze on the person.



He looks different from any of the guards and staffs in the tower.
He's looking down, I can't see his face very well. I can't even tell his gender.
As if trying to protect something, he hugs his knees, leaning against the door.
What is with this person?
I'm not sure if I should move forward or retreat.
I don't know about this person. I think it's best if I don't get involved with him.
But, from what I've observed, it feels like if I am to hit this person he'll not admit defeat so easily either.
At the very least, I also don't see this person possessing any overwhelming power either.
On top of that, if I am to say that this place feels strange, then this person is equally strange as well.
Seriously, what's with this person...?
While I quietly observe, the person looks up.
I still can't see the face. It's covered with his soft flowing hair.

Aoba: □...□

Without thinking, I step a foot ahead.
I see his face, just for a second; it perplexes me for a while.
I don't know this person. I don't know a person like him.
...But, I'm not sure why I'm so interested in him either.
This person...
Increasing the alertness within me, I take heavy steps towards him.
As our distance is drawn closer, for some reason, my heartbeats increase in speed.
I feel anxious, there's a weird sense of edginess running along my limbs.
The sound of my heartbeats vibrates loudly in my head.
Why...?
Confused by the change in my own body, I approach the door.
As I stand in front of the door, the person slowly.... really slowly lifts his head up.
His hair flow away, revealing his face.



Sei: □...□

I'm fascinated by his pair of black eyes, the color so deep as if he's trying to suck me into it.
It feels like I can see through his eyes, I can see my own reflection clearly in it.
...ah.

- *Aoba* -

- ...*me*. -

Aoba: □...huh?□

The voice just now...
Whose voice was it...?
It feels like it's speaking directly in my head...
Does it belong to this person...?

Aoba: □...ugh!!□

Suddenly, my head receives something like a shock, I immediately take a step behind.
Just now, when I'm looking into the person's eyes...
There's a loud "Don't come closer" voice ringing loudly from within me.
Just now...
...No. Stop it.

Aoba: □...□

I look away, returning back.
It's best if I don't get involved with people I don't know.
Especially people who appear in places I have no idea of.
There's nothing specific I can conclude from here.
Perhaps it's due to the vibration in my head from just now, my head is starting to

throb. I walk back towards the elevator.
I'm done with walking around. It's enough.

([REDACTED] DRAMAtical Murder re:code [REDACTED] [REDACTED])